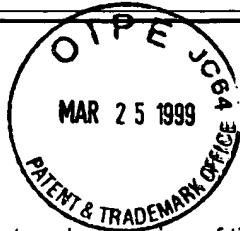


COMBINED AMENDMENT & PETITION FOR EXTENSION OF
TIME UNDER 37 CFR 1.136(a) (Large Entity)

Docket No.
ARC 2630



*HJ
MARCH 9
4091*

The fee for the amendment and extension of time is to be paid as follows:

A check in the amount of \$380.00 for the amendment and extension of time is enclosed.

Please charge Deposit Account No. 01-1173 in the amount of \$380.00
A duplicate copy of this sheet is enclosed.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge payment of the following fees associated with this communication or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No.
A duplicate copy of this sheet is enclosed.

Any additional filing fees required under 37 C.F.R. 1.16.

Any patent application processing fees under 37 CFR 1.17.

If an additional extension of time is required, please consider this a petition therefor and charge any additional fees which may be required to Deposit Account No. 01-1173 A duplicate copy of this sheet is enclosed.

04/07/1999 TSUGGS 00000004 011173 08987372

01 FO:116 380.00 CH

Owen J. Bates
Signature

Dated: March 19, 1999

Owen J. Bates, Reg. No. 40,346
ALZA Corporation
950 Page Mill Road
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(650) 496-8267

I certify that this document and fee is being deposited on with the U.S. Postal Service as first class mail under 37 C.F.R. 1.8 and is addressed to the Assistant Commissioner for Patents, Washington, D.C. 20231.

Owen J. Bates
Signature of Person Mailing Correspondence

Owen J. Bates
Henrietta Votaw

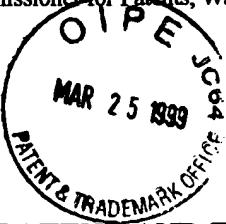
Typed or Printed Name of Person Mailing Correspondence

CC:

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service with sufficient postage as First Class Mail in an envelope addressed to: Assistant Commissioner for Patents, Washington, DC 20231 on March 19, 1999.

ALZA Corporation

By Owen J. Bates
Owen J. Bates



IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant: VENKATRAMAN, et al

Attorney Docket No.: ARC-2630

Serial No.: 08/987,372

Group Art Unit: 1615

Filed: 09 December 1997

Examiner: WEBMAN, E.

Title: Pharmaceutical Hydrogel Formulations,
and Associated Drug Devices and
Methods

AMENDMENT and RESPONSE

Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Washington, DC 20231

5/1
5/1999
4/6-99

Sir:

The present AMENDMENT and REMARKS are made in reply to the Office Action mailed 19 October 1998. This is the first office action following the filing of the application on 09 December 1997.

AMENDMENT

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please cancel claims 1-21, 23, 26-28, and 31-38 without prejudice or disclaimer.